

ANTHONY HEDGES

SONGS OF FOUR SEASONS

Op 128

for Soprano and Piano



WESTFIELD MUSIC

Songs of Four seasons were composed during the summer of 1996 and first performed in a recital at Hull University by Delia Fletcher and the composer on 16th February 1997. The composer's programme note for that occasion was as follows:

These short settings were written in response to comments by several singing teachers concerning the lack of contemporary repertoire within the scope of student singers. Their texts not only reflect the seasons of the year but also the seasons of life. It would have been perhaps natural - though not artistically satisfactory - to chart a gradual decline from youth to old age. But in selecting and setting the final poem I had in mind Dylan Thomas's line "Rage, rage, against the dying of the light", and Winter brings a closing fierce flare before the closing line of the text finally faces the ineluctable hand of fate. (Incidentally, in the text of the third song James Joyce's use of "gay" is in the original sense of the word.)

SONGS OF FOUR SEASONS

for Soprano and Piano

Anthony Hedges

Poem by W.H.Davies

1. SPRING

Allegro giocoso e molto vivace

Soprano

Good mor - ning,

Piano

mf

con ped.

Life and all Things glad and

beau - ti - ful, Good mor - ning,

10

Life _____ and all Things glad _____ and

10

13

beau - ti - ful, My po - ckets no - thing hold,

13

mf

16

But he that owns the gold, The Sun, _____ is my

16

f

19

great friend His spen - ding has no end.

19

22 *poco meno f*

Hail, _____ hail _____ to the mor - ning sky, Which

22

leggiere

25

bright clouds _____ mea - sure high; _____

25

28

Hail to you birds whose throats _____ Would num - ber leaves by

28

31 *mp*

notes; _____ Hail _____ to you sha - dy bowers, And

31 *mp*

34

you — green fields of flowers.

p *cresc.*

38 *f* Here's to you wo - men fair, — That make a show so rare — *mf* In

38 *f*

42 cloth — as white as silk - Be it ca - - - li - co or silk:

42 *mp*

46 Good mor - ning,

46 *cresc.* *f*

49

Life and all Things glad and

52

beau - ti - ful, Good mor - ning,

55

Life and all Things glad and

58

ff beau - ti - ful, Good mor - ning, Life.

2. SUMMER

6 Text from Milton's 'Paradise Lost'

Andante con moto *mf* (quasi recit.)

To whom thus Eve, with per - fect

mp **Allegretto** ♩ = 84

beau - ty a - dorned... "Sweet is the breath of

mp **Allegretto** ♩ = 84

p con ped. molto legato

10 morn, her ri - sing sweet, sweet, With charm of

13 ear - liest birds; plea - sant the sun, When first on this de - light - ful

16

land he spreads. His o - ri - ent beams, on herb, tree,

16

sim.

19

fruit, and flower, Gli - - - ster-ing with

19

f

8va

22

dew; fra - - - grant,

22 (*8va*)

loco

decr.

mp

25

fra - - - grant the fer - - - tile earth Af - ter soft showers,

25

28

af - ter soft showers; and sweet the co - ming on Of grate - ful

31

eve - ning mild; then si - lent night, and this fair

35

moon, And these the gems of Heaven, her sta - rry train;

39

piu mosso
mp

But nei - ther breath of morn, when she a - scends With charm of

43 *cresc.*

ear - liest birds; nor ri - sing sun On this de - light - ful land;

43 *cresc.*

46 *f*

nor herb, fruit, flower, — Gli - - - ster - ing with dew; nor

46 *poco f*

49 *mf*

fra - grance a - fter showers; Nor grate - ful eve - ning mild;

49 *mp*

53 *p*

nor si - lent night, With this her so - lemn bird; nor walk — by

53 *mp*

57

moon, Or gli - tter - ing star - light, with - out thee, with - out — thee is

57

60

poco meno mosso
mp

sweet.' Thus tal - - king, hand in

60

poco meno mosso
mp

64

p

hand a - lone they passed On to their bliss - - - - ful

64

pp

70

bower.

70

p

3. AUTUMN

Poco lento e flessibile ♩ = 62

mp

mp

Now,

O now, in this brown land Where Love did so sweet mu-sic

mf

make We two shal wan-der, hand in hand, For -

18

bear-ing for old friend-ship's sake, Nor grieve be - cause our love was gay— Which

18

poco f

23

now is en - ded in— this way.

23

mf *mp*

27 **Animato** $\text{♩} = 96$ *f*

Animato $\text{♩} = 96$ *f*

A rogue, a rogue in red and ye-llo-w dress Is kno-cking, kno-cking at the

27

f

30

tree; And all a - round our lone-li-ness The wind is whist - ling me - rri-ly.

30

f

33 *mf*
The leaves - they

33 *decr.* *mf*

36 *poco a poco morendo* **A tempo primo**
do not sigh at all When the year takes them in the fall.

36 *poco a poco morendo* **A tempo primo**
mp

40 *mp*
Now, O now, we hear no more The vill - - - a - nelle and

40 *mp*

43 *f*
roun - de - lay! Yet will we kiss, sweet - heart, be - fore We take sad leave at close of

43 *f*

47 *mp*

day. Grieve not, sweet - heart, _____ for an - y - thing -

47 *mp*

51 *p*

The year, the year is ga - ther - ing.

51 *p*

4. WINTER

Verses from a poem by Laurence Binyon

Andante ♩ = 74

Andante ♩ = 74

ff *con ped.* *ff*

3 *ff*

Now is the time for the

5

bur - ning of the leaves.

5 *f* *ff*

6

6 *ff*

8

8 *piu allegro e brillante* ♩ = 92

8va

10 *f* 3

They go in - to the fire; the no - stril pricks with smoke

10 *loco* *f* *8va*

12

(*8va*) *loco rit.*

14 **Tempo 1** *mf* 3

Wan - der - ing slow - ly in - to a wee - ping mist.

14 **Tempo 1** *mf* *molto legato*

16 3 *f*

Bri - ttle and blotched, ra - gged and ro - ten sheaves!

16 *f* *mf* *ff*

18 *f*

A flame sei - zes the smoul - der - ing ru - in and bites On

18 *8va*

mf

20

stu - bborn stalks that cra - ckle as they re - sist.

20 *8va*

22 *mf*

Now is the time for stri - pping the spi - rit

22 *loco*

mp

24

bare, Time for the bur - ning of days en - ded and done,

24 *mp*

27

I - dle so-lace of things that have gone be - fore: Root - less hope and

30

fruit-less de-sires are there; Let them go to the fire with

32

poco meno mosso

ne-ver a look be-hind. The world that was ours is a world that is ours no more,

35

pp rit. poco a poco

The world that was ours is a world that is ours no more.